Missouri Department of Natural Resources
"Integrity and excellence in all we do"

Collecting Missouri Fossils

Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division fact sheet number 14 6/2002

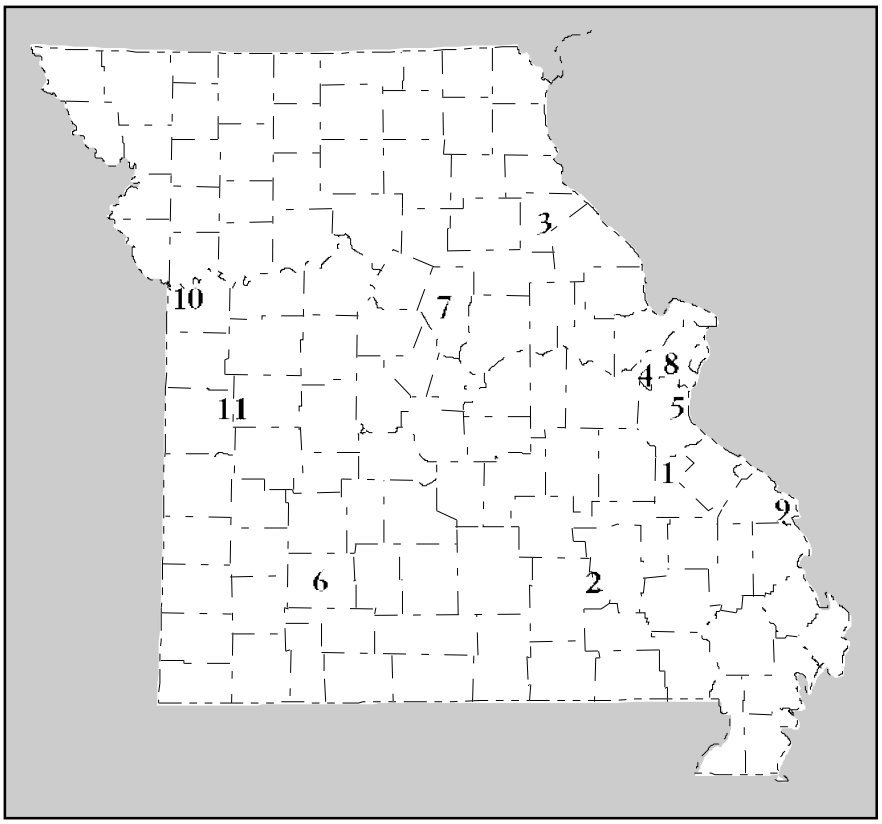
Missouri Fossils -- Where To Find Them:

1. Roadcuts on State Hwy. 8 near Leadwood and Frankclay, about 4-6 mi west of Park Hills, St. Francois Co.: brachiopods and trilobite parts in flaggy limestone and calcareous shale of the Upper Cambrian Davis Formation.

2. Central Ozark region of southern Missouri: diligent searching will turn up occasional gastropods, cephalopods, and trilobite parts in the residual cherts derived from Upper Cambrian and Lower Ordovician dolomites.

3. Exposures along U.S. 61 just south of the Salt River bridge, about one mile north of New London, Ralls Co.: brachiopods, bryozoans, trilobite parts, etc. in Middle Ordovician Plattin limestone.

4. Roadcuts and outcrops on north outer road (I-44) just west of Allenton, and on State Hwy. 109 about 2-4 mi north of Eureka, St. Louis Co.: brachiopods, bryozoans, trilobite parts, etc. in shaly limestones of the Middle Ordovician Plattin and Decorah Formations.



5. Roadcuts, outcrops, and abandoned quarries in the corridor along U.S. 61-67 and I-55 between Arnold and Festus, Jefferson Co.: Middle Ordovician brachiopods, bryozoans, trilobites, corals, cephalopods, etc. in shaly limestones of the Plattin and Decorah Formations and massive crystalline limestone of the Kimmswick Formation.

6. Roadcuts, outcrops, and abandoned quarries along I-44 and U.S. 65 in a large

PUB000665

area centered around Springfield, Greene Co.: crinoids, brachiopods, horn corals, etc. in the thick crinoidal beds of the Osagean Burlington Limestone (best collected on weathered surfaces).

7. Exposures in the vicinity of Columbia, Boone Co.: crinoids, brachiopods, etc. in the coarsely crinoidal Osagean Burlington Limestone.

8. Roadcuts and outcrops at junction of I-44 and I-270 near southwest edge of St. Louis: abundant bryozoans, brachiopods, etc. in shaly limestone of the Meramecian Warsaw Formation.

9. Outcrops and small abandoned quarries at Star Landing and 76 Landing on the Mississippi River in the southeast corner of Perry Co.: blastoids, crinoids, bryozoans, brachiopods, etc. in Chesterian limestones.

10. Roadcuts, outcrops, and quarries in and adjacent to metropolitan Kansas City: marine fossils are found in abundance in many of the well-exposed Pennsylvanian limestones and shales.

11. Abandoned coal strip mines in Vernon, Bates, Henry, and St. Clair Counties: marine fossils are abundant in many of the limestones and shales associated with coal.